

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of Joint Application)	
)	
Northern Iowa Communications Partners, LLC)	
Assignor)	
)	WC Docket No. 21-_____
and)	
)	
Premier Communications, Inc.)	
Assignee)	
)	
For Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the)	
Communications Act of 1934, as Amended,)	
To Assign Estherville, Iowa Customer Base of)	
Northern Iowa Communications Partners, LLC,)	
Authorized Domestic Section 214 Carrier,)	
to Premier Communications, Inc.)	

DOMESTIC SECTION 214 JOINT APPLICATION

Northern Iowa Communications Partners, LLC (“NICP” or “Assignor”) and Premier Communications, Inc. (“Premier” or “Assignee”) (collectively, the “Applicants”), pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, and Section 63.04 of the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission” or “FCC”) request approval to assign the Estherville, Iowa telecommunications customer base of NICP to Premier. NICP and Premier hold blanket domestic Section 214 authorizations pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 63.01.

NICP is a competitive local exchange carrier (“CLEC”) and provides local and long-distance voice telecommunications and access services to approximately 15 business customers in the town of Estherville in Emmet County, Iowa. The town of Estherville is located within the Estherville exchange, served by CenturyLink.

Premier is a CLEC and provides local and long-distance voice telecommunications, Internet, cable television and access service in the Iowa exchanges of Akron, Boyden, Doon, Hull, Ireton, Rock Valley, Rock Rapids, LeMars, Orange City, George, Merrill, Ashton, Arnolds Park, Lake Park, Sheldon, Ocheyedon, Milford, Spirit Lake, Fostoria, and a portion of the Minnesota exchange of Ellsworth that falls within Iowa. Upon closing of the transaction, the NICP local and long distance voice customer base will be assigned to Premier.

To the extent the proposed transaction involves the geographic overlap of certain local franchise areas and telephone exchange service areas, Assignor and Assignee are competitive local exchange carriers. Accordingly, the prohibitions of Section 652(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, do not apply.¹

I. Information Required by Section 63.04

Pursuant to Section 63.04(a) of the Commission's Rules, the Applicants submit the following information:

1. Name, address and telephone number of each Applicant and Licensee:

Assignor:

Northern Iowa Communications Partners, LLC
107 South State Street
P.O. Box 100
Terril, IA 51364
(712) 853-6121
FRN 0014990436

Assignee:

Premier Communications, Inc.
339 First Avenue NE, PO Box 200

¹ The Commission currently forbears from applying Section 652(b) in the context of cable operator acquisitions of competitive LECs. *See In The Matter of Petition for Declaratory Ruling to Clarify 47 U.S.C. § 572 in the Context of Transactions Between Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and Cable Operators, Conditional Petition for Forbearance from Section 652 of the Communications Act for Transactions Between Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and Cable Operators*, WC Docket No. 11-118, Order, 27 FCC Rcd 11532 (Rel. Sept. 17, 2012).

Sioux Center, IA 51250
(712) 722-3451
FRN 0004338315

2. Jurisdiction of Organizations:

Assignors

NICP is a limited liability corporation organized under the laws of the state of Iowa.

Assignee

Premier is wholly-owned by Mutual Telephone Company of Sioux Center, Iowa d/b/a

Premier Communications (“Mutual”), an incumbent local exchange carrier (“ILEC”).

The states of incorporation of Mutual and all wholly-owned ILEC and CLEC affiliates are as follows:

Mutual Telephone Company of Sioux Center, Iowa – Iowa Corporation
Northern Iowa Telephone Company – Iowa Corporation
Webb-Dickens Telephone Corporation – Iowa Corporation
Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa – Minnesota Corporation
Hospers Telephone Exchange, Inc. – Iowa Corporation
Premier Communications, Inc. – Iowa Corporation (Assignee)

3. Contact Information:

Correspondence concerning this Application should be sent to:

Consultant for Assignee

John Kuykendall
Vice President
John Staurulakis, Inc.
7852 Walker Drive
Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

With copies for NICP to:

John Noah
CCO
Northern Iowa Communications Partners, LLC

107 South State Street
P.O. Box 100
Terril, IA 51364
(712) 853-6121
jnoah@terril.com

With copies for Premier to:

Doug Boone, CEO
Ryan Boone, COO
Premier Communications, Inc.
339 First Avenue NE, PO Box 200
Sioux Center, IA 51250
712-722-3451
dboone@mypremieronline.com
rboone@mypremieronline.com

4. Ownership Information:

Current Ownership

NICP is a partnership of independent telephone companies. The following entities hold a ten percent (10%) or greater interest in NICP:

Name and Address	Percent Equity	Citizenship	Principal Business
Terril Telephone Cooperative 107 South State Street P.O. Box 100 Terril, IA 51364	11.11% Direct Ownership	U.S.	ILEC Telecommunications
Royal Telephone Company 307 Main Street P.O. Box 80 Royal, IA 51357	11.11% Direct Ownership	U.S.	ILEC Telecommunications
Lone Rock Cooperative Telephone Co. 215 Maine Street P.O. Box 278 Lone Rock, IA 50559-0278	11.11% Direct Ownership	U.S.	ILEC Telecommunications
Palmer Mutual Telephone Company 306 Main Street P.O. Box 155 Palmer, IA 50571	11.11% Direct Ownership	U.S.	ILEC Telecommunications
Independent Networks	11.11%	U.S.	CLEC Telecommunications

19 W Maple Street P.O. Box 187 Ringsted, IA 50578	Direct Ownership		
River Valley Telecommunications Coop 106 East Robins Street P.O. Box 250 Graettinger, IA 51342	11.11% Direct Ownership	U.S.	ILEC Telecommunications
Ayrshire Farmers Mutual Telephone Co. 844 Wood Street Havelock, IA 50546	11.11% Direct Ownership	U.S.	ILEC Telecommunications
Northwest Telephone Cooperative Association 844 Wood Street Havelock, IA 50546	11.11% Direct Ownership	U.S.	ILEC Telecommunications
Ringsted Telephone Company 19 West Maple Street P.O. Box 187 Ringsted, IA 50578	11.11% Direct Ownership	U.S.	ILEC Telecommunications

There are no indirect interests of 10% or more in NICP.

Post-Transaction Ownership

Upon completion of the transaction, the following entities will hold a ten percent (10%) or greater interest in Premier's operations in Estherville, Iowa:

Name and Address	Percent Equity	Citizenship	Principal Business
Premier Communications, Inc. 339 First Avenue NE, PO Box 200 Sioux Center, IA 51250	100% Direct Ownership	U.S.	Telecommunications
Mutual Telephone Company of Sioux Center, Iowa d/b/a Premier Communications	100% Indirect Ownership as Parent	U.S.	Telecommunications

No single individual or entity owns ten percent (10%) or more of Mutual.

Officers and Directors and Key Management Personnel

The following officers and directors and key management of Mutual are each U.S. citizens:

David Krahling, Board President
Chad Feenstra, Board Vice President
Mike McAlpine, Board Secretary
James Mouw, Board Treasurer
Douglas Boone, CEO
Howard Beernink, Director
Monica Sedelmeier, Director
John Koerselman, Director
Stacie Dykstra, Director
Ted Hengeveld, Director

In addition to its 100% ownership of Premier, Mutual wholly-owns the following telecommunications providers:

Northern Iowa Telephone Company (ILEC)
Webb-Dickens Telephone Corporation (ILEC)
Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa (ILEC)
Hospers Telephone Exchange, Inc. (ILEC and CLEC)

Mutual holds 10 percent or greater interests in the following telecommunications providers:

Mutual owns 20.41% of FiberNet Communications L.C., an Iowa corporation which provides transport/special access telecommunications services throughout Northwest Iowa. In addition, the following ILEC affiliates wholly-owned by Mutual hold interests in FiberNet Communications L.C.:

Northern Iowa Telephone Company	23.34% interest
Hospers Telephone Exchange, Inc.	5.25% interest

Mutual owns 100% of MTC Holdings, Inc. ("MTC"), an Iowa corporation. MTC is a holding company that does not itself provide telecommunications services. MTC holds the following interests:

30% of FiberComm, L.C., an Iowa corporation which provides competitive local exchange services in the Sioux City, Iowa market.

50% of Milford Communications, LLC, an Iowa corporation which is a cable TV and broadband provider in Milford and Fostoria, Iowa. Milford Communications, LLC does not offer voice service.

50% of Estherville Communications, LLC, an Iowa corporation which is a broadband provider in Estherville, Iowa.

None of the foregoing direct and indirect interests held by Mutual overlap the Estherville service area. Estherville is adjacent to the River Valley Telecommunications Coop. Iowa service area, an ILEC which holds 50% ownership of Estherville Communications, LLC (“Estherville Communications”). As noted above, Estherville Communications provides broadband service in Estherville, but does not offer voice service.

5. Certification Pursuant to Rule Sections 1.2001-1.2003

Applicants hereby certify pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2001-1.2003, that to the best of their knowledge, information, and belief, no party to this application is subject to denial of federal benefits pursuant to section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. § 853.

6. Description of the Transaction

Pursuant to an Asset Purchase Agreement, Premier proposes to acquire the voice customer base of NICP in the town of Estherville, Iowa. NICP provides telecommunications services over facilities owned by Estherville Communications, a Premier affiliate, through a network lease agreement. Upon completion of the transaction, Premier will enter into a network lease agreement with Estherville Communications to provision service to the acquired Estherville voice customer base. The blanket domestic Section 214 authorizations held by NICP and Premier will continue to be held by each respective entity following consummation of the proposed transactions.

NICP holds international Section 214 authorization ITC-214-19970207-00071 for the provision of interstate and international long distance services to Estherville local exchange customers. Upon completion of the transaction, such services will be provided to Estherville, Iowa customers by Premier. Premier is authorized to provide international global switched resale services pursuant to File No. ITC-214-19970905-00537.

A chart depicting the pre- and post-transaction ownership of the Estherville voice customer base is provided at Exhibit A.

7. Description of Geographic Service Area and Services in Each Area

NICP is a rural CLEC that provides local and long distance telecommunications services, and access services to business customers in the town of Estherville in Emmet County, Iowa and has CLEC authority in the city of Emmetsburg in Palo Alto County, Iowa. The town of Estherville is within the Estherville exchange in Emmet County, located in Northwest Iowa.²

Premier is a rural CLEC that provides local and long distance telecommunications services, Internet access services, video services and access services to residential and business customers in the Iowa exchanges of Akron, Boyden, Doon, Hull, Ireton, Rock Valley, Rock Rapids, LeMars, Orange City, George, Merrill, Ashton, Arnolds Park, Lake Park, Sheldon, Ocheyedon, Milford, Spirit Lake, Fostoria, and a portion of the Minnesota exchange of Ellsworth that falls within Iowa.

As stated above, Premier is wholly-owned by Mutual, a rural ILEC that currently provides local exchange telecommunications service, access service, Internet and advanced communications services in the Sioux Center, Iowa exchange. Mutual wholly owns the following ILEC affiliate providers of local exchange service in the state of Iowa:

Northern Iowa Telephone Company, a rural ILEC, serves the Iowa exchanges of Hinton, Matlock, Maurice, Sanborn, Little Rock and Granville.

Webb-Dickens Telephone Corporation, a rural ILEC, serves the Iowa exchanges of Dickens and Webb.

Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa, a rural ILEC, serves the Iowa exchanges of Akron, Boyden, Doon, Hawarden, Hull, Ireton, Rock Rapids, Rock Valley and Sibley local exchange areas in the State of Iowa, the North Rock Rapids exchange area in the State of Minnesota and the West Akron and West Hawarden local exchange areas in the State of South Dakota.

Hospers Telephone Exchange, Inc., a rural ILEC, serves the Hospers, Iowa, local exchange.

² As noted above, NICP provides interstate and international long distance services for Estherville, Iowa customers. Upon completion of the transaction, those services will be provided by Premier.

The service territories of NICP and Premier are neither adjacent, nor do they overlap.

8. Qualification for Streamlining

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is eligible for streamlined processing pursuant to Sections 63.03 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 63.03(b)(2).

1. Applicants (including their Affiliates, as that term is defined in Section 3(1) of the Act) combined will hold less than a ten percent (10%) share of the interstate, interexchange market;

2. Applicants and their Affiliates will provide competitive telephone exchange services or exchange access services exclusively in geographic areas served by dominant local exchange carriers, none of which is a party to the proposed Transaction.

9. Related Commission Applications

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 63.24(b), an international Section 214 application is being separately filed with the International Bureau for assignment of control of NICP's Estherville, Iowa, long distance customer base to Premier. Any necessary filings related to the assignment of the long-distance services provided by NICP to Premier will be submitted before the assignment is completed, as well as FCC and customer notifications pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 64.1120(e) slamming rules.

10. Special Consideration

None.

11. Waiver Requests:

None.

12. Public Interest Statement

Approval of the transactions will serve the public interest, convenience and necessity. Assignee submits that competition will not be harmed by the proposed transactions in that Premier will continue the provision of business competitive service in Estherville now provided

by NICP, and anticipates that service will expand to include residential customers in the future. Premier is a strong competitive provider with a solid record of providing reliable advanced telecommunications services, and is backed by the extensive resources of Mutual, its parent company. Further, competitors have a strong presence in Estherville through nationwide carriers, mobile wireless, satellite TV, over-the-top video or IP voice providers utilizing the broadband network.

The proposed transaction will not result in any loss or impairment of service to any of the Estherville customers currently served by NICP. Post-close, Premier will continue to provide these customers with the voice services they receive today, pursuant to the same rates, terms and conditions. Any future service changes will be preceded by appropriate notices to customers and required regulatory filings.

II. Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the assignment of Estherville voice customer base to Premier will not harm competition in the Iowa telecommunications market and that the public interest, convenience and necessity would be furthered through telecommunications services which will be continued without interruption to NICP customers in the town of Estherville.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Boone

Doug Boone (Dec 18, 2020 07:55 CST)

By: Doug Boone, CEO
PREMIER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
339 First Avenue NE, PO Box 200
Sioux Center, IA 51250
Email: dboone@mypremieronline.com

John W. Noah

By: John Noah, CCO
NORTHERN IOWA COMMUNICATIONS PARTNERS, LLC
107 South State Street
P.O Box 100
Terril, IA 51364
Email: jnoah@terril.com

January 4, 2021

DECLARATION OF DOUG BOONE
PREMIER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

I, Doug Boone, CEO of Premier Communications, Inc., do hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the statements made in this Joint Application for Domestic Section 214 Assignment of Assets are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2021.

Premier Communications, Inc.

Doug Boone

[Doug Boone \(Dec 18, 2020 07:55 CST\)](#)

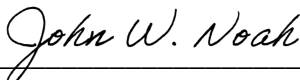
By: Doug Boone, CEO

DECLARATION OF JOHN NOAH
NORTHERN IOWA COMMUNICATIONS PARTNERS

I, John Noah, President of Northern Iowa Communications Partners, LLC, do hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the statements made in this Joint Application for Domestic Section 214 Assignment of Assets are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2021.

Northern Iowa Communications Partners, LLC



By: John Noah, CCO

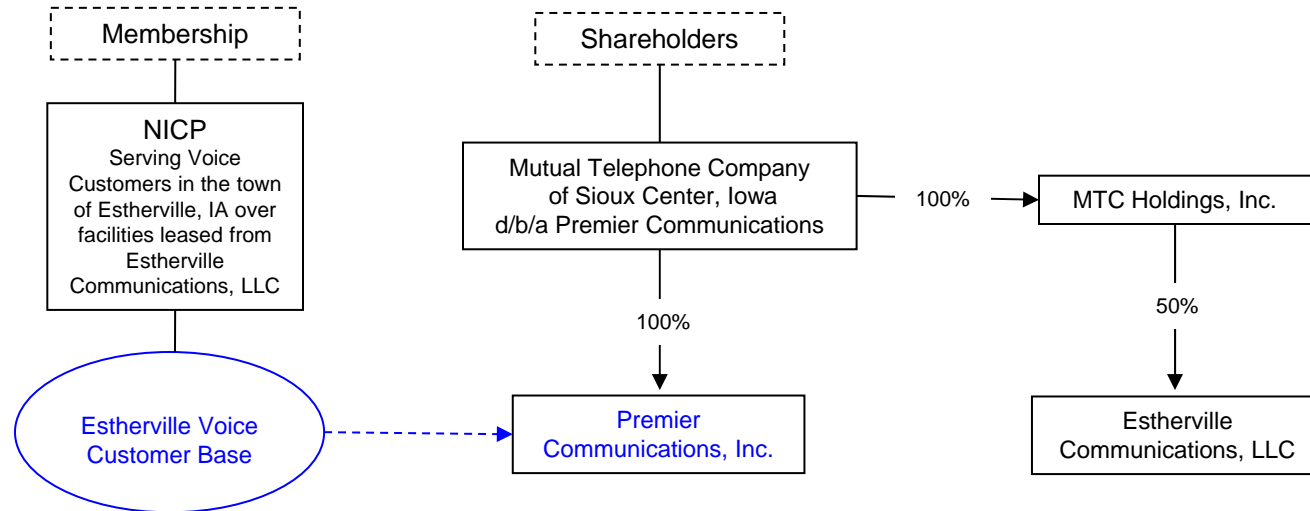
EXHIBIT A

TRANSACTION CHART

OWNERSHIP OF ESTHERVILLE, IOWA

VOICE CUSTOMER BASE

Transaction Ownership Chart



* The entities listed herein only include the Applicants and those entities in the chain of ownership of the Applicants. The chart excludes all other subsidiaries of Applicants including those that hold authorizations or licenses from the FCC or state regulators.






Premier-NICP Domestic 214 Final for Signatures

Final Audit Report

2020-12-18

Created:	2020-12-18
By:	Ryan Boone (rboone@mypremieronline.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAPobh6AKgHK63AwlWlr7gl_rsdit4KFi1

"Premier-NICP Domestic 214 Final for Signatures" History

-  Document created by Ryan Boone (rboone@mypremieronline.com)
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